PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

# CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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## KKKOPS KILL KIDS

# SHUT THIS RACIST SYSTEM DOWN!

"It's not just one bad cop." The whole damn system has to go

**NEW YORK CITY, September 24**—Raymond Chaluisant's mother, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members, and friends marched through the Bronx to demand justice for Raymond and an end to racist murder. Our chants of "Asian, Latin, Black and White, Same Enemy! Same Fight!…Workers of the World Unite!" and "Shut this racist system down!" could be heard across the Grand Concourse and Fordham Road. We distributed hundreds of copies of CHALLENGE and carried signs remembering Raymond and others who have been killed by kkkops and this capitalist system. PLP members rallied for a communist revolution in which workers no longer need to live in a police state and fear for their lives. So long as we live in a society that is built on racism and rewards kkkops for killing, we will never be free. STAND UP, FIGHT BACK!

Multiple participants gave speeches or led chants for the first time. Some participants expressed a desire to get City University of New York (CUNY) students and high school students involved in this fightback.

The multiracial, multigenerational demonstration was our second protest in the neighborhood where Raymond lived. Murderer Dion Middleton, who works for the New York Department of Corrections (NYDOC), killed Raymond while the teenager was riding in a car with his friend for the "crime" of playing with a water gun. After he shot Raymond, Middleton fled the scene and left him to die without even reporting the incident.

### Workers call out the injustice of capitalism

One young worker who talked with a PL'er during the protest pointed out that if it had been the family member of a cop that had been shot, the court system would be treating the case "totally different." Meanwhile, Raymond's family is forced to grieve not only his death but also the fact that his murderer is not being held accountable. Another worker who saw us marching became super pumped up, and was ready to let the whole of Grand Concourse in the Bronx know how rotten these police are. He insisted that "it's not just one bad cop, it's all of them!" Murderer Middleton's actions were no mistake, nor can they be explained by "poor training;" he was carrying out his job as intended. In fact, Middleton even teaches firearm safety to other DOC employees. Black cop, white cop, all the same! Racist terror is the name of the game!

Dion Middleton's next court date is November 16. Although Middleton has been indicted for his crimes, we cannot be lured into believing that any type of real justice will prevail through capitalist courts. The courts exist to uphold the same racist system that cops and correctional officers sign up to protect. There is no justice in a racist system.

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SCAN ME

# OUR FIGHT

✰Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✰The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✰Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✰While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✰Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✰Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✰Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✰Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✰Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✰Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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## WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

# Death to all fascists

Meloni doing the sieg heil fascist salute

With the capitalists' liberal fascist democracies falling apart from Europe to Latin America to the U.S., the scum-of-the-earth Brothers of Italy Party and its far-right coalition have swept to power in Italy. Reviving the slogan of "God, homeland, family," bashing immigrants and Muslims, the gutter-racist Giorgia Meloni is set to become the country's first openly fascist prime minister since her mass-murdering, anti-Semitic hero, Benito Mussolini, was shot like a dog by a communist partisan in 1945.

As the rulers prove—yet again—that the profit system cannot solve the crises facing the international working class, from inflation to climate change to Covid-19, the world situation is highly volatile. With deep splits between capitalist camps in every country, and as longtime alliances seem up for grabs, inter-imperialist rivalry is boiling in Ukraine. World war is no longer a remote possibility. The liberal bosses' elite media, from the *New York Times to Foreign Affairs*, are warning that it's just around the corner. "Empires can end abruptly, and when they do, chaos and instability ensues" (Foreign Affairs, 10/4).

Meloni's cynical climb comes on the heels of the far right's rise to power or prominence in Sweden, France, Hungary, Poland, Turkey, India, the Philippines, Brazil, and the United States. Though many workers are courageously fighting back, billions have been misled into one capitalist faction or the other. Our class interests have been obscured by the dark night that fell after capitalism was restored in Russia and China. It is time for Progressive Labor Party to raise the red flag and build a mass communist revolutionary party to smash fascism wherever it shows its monstrous head, in whatever form it takes.

### Capitalist crisis opens the door for Small Fascists

Meloni's breakthrough is the result of decades of miserably failed liberal misleadership. As of 2020, nearly 10 percent of the population in Italy—more than five million workers—lived in absolute poverty (Reuters, 6/16/21). Due to European Union sanctions against Russia, energy prices have soared over 90 percent in the last two years (The Local, 9/30). As workers struggled, outgoing Prime Minister Mario Draghi, the former head of the European Central Bank, made his priorities clear. He served the interests of the Big Fascists, the liberal finance capitalists who run—at least for now—the European Union and the U.S.

With the liberals in free fall and in the absence of a strong communist movement, the Brothers of Italy built an opposition following among disgruntled workers. Meloni's party is a direct descendant of the Italian Social Movement (MSI), the ultra-nationalist, fascist party formed by Mussolini's supporters immediately after World War II. The U.S. and its allies turned a blind eye to these war criminals to keep a huge Italian Communist Party in check. They set the stage for the domestically oriented, "Eurosceptic" small fascists to come to power, even if that wasn't the liberals' plan.

### Big Fascists losing ground

Among the imperialist world powers, Russia has the most to gain from the Small Fascists' victory in Europe's third-largest economy—and the U.S. the most to lose. Although Meloni opportunistically moved to "the center" in her campaign and backed Ukraine's war effort, she has previously voiced her admiration for President Vladimir Putin. According to the Italian Institute for International Political Studies, "Given the current political climate, this is the best outcome the Kremlin could hope for today" (newsweek.com, 9/25).

Along with the racist pro-Russia regime in Hungary, and growing fascist movements in France and Spain, an unreliable Meloni government could disrupt the European Union and weaken the U.S.-led Big Fascists' ability to build a multiracial military to go to war. The liberals' disarray and lack of discipline were exposed in the aftermath of Italy's elections. Although President Joe Biden raised concerns over Meloni's triumph, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said he was "eager" to work with her (barrons.com, 9/26). Feminist icon and Big Fascist war criminal Hillary Clinton was quick to tweet out congratulations to the Brothers of Italy, which has limited legal abortions in every region it governs: "The election of the first woman prime minister in a country always represents a break with the past, and that is certainly a good thing" (Daily Beast, 9/28).

As the Big Fascists accelerate their war plans against China and Russia and strain to shore up their fraying alliances, they can't afford to exclude open racists and sexists. As communists, we must lead our class to smash both outright Nazis like Meloni and the liberals who will try to use her as they're forced to move toward their own brand of fascism.

### Communists smash fascist dictators

As Benito Mussolini's fascist party outlawed strikes and any independent labor movement, one of its first orders of business was to jail and kill communists. "Blackshirt" thugs roamed the streets and terrorized workers with impunity. The fascist regime drew financial support from both U.S. corporations and the U.S. government, which saw Mussolini's forces as "perhaps the most potent factor in the suppression of Bolshevism in Italy" (janataweekly.org, 4/10). Beginning in the late 1920s, backed by the imperialist Allies, Mussolini brutally crushed resistance to Italian colonial rule in Libya, ultimately killing one third of the population. Beginning in 1936, he directed the imperialist conquest of Ethiopia, Somalia (then called Italian Somaliland), and Eritrea – again unopposed by the Western imperialists. The New York Times' Italian correspondent, Arnaldo Cortesi, was an open cheerleader for these racist slaughters.

From the start, the communists rejected the Mussolini government appointed by King Victor Emmanuel III in 1922. After World War II broke out in 1939, they intensified their guerrilla war against both German and Italian fascist troops. Each communist fighting unit had a political commissar who promoted communist consciousness among the volunteers. Many organized workers in the cities, while others fought in the countryside. Throughout World War II, the Italian Communist Party led the underground opposition to fascism. At the forefront were the communist "Garibaldi Brigades," which suffered the greatest number of casualties in the anti-fascist war in Italy.

### Liberals pander to anti-immigrant terrorism

For decades, the European Union's anti-immigration policies have terrorized millions of migrants. In 2018, Hillary Clinton called upon Europe's leaders to show they are "not going to be able to continue to provide refuge and support….Europe needs to get a handle on migration because that is what lit the flame" of Small Fascist nationalism (theguardian.com, 11/22/18). Translation: To stop hemorrhaging voters to far-right parties, the EU liberals must be willing to let migrants starve.

As the bosses pander, workers suffer. On July 29, a disabled street vendor from Nigeria, Alika Ogorchukwu, was beaten to death with his own crutch by a white man in Italy after asking for spare change (theguardian.com, 7/30). In 2018, a far-right nationalist wrapped himself in the Italian flag, shouted "Viva L'Italia!" and shot six migrants from Africa in a drive-by attack. When he was arrested, the racist shouted that he "wanted to kill them all" (BBC.com, 8/15). It was one more horrific example of how nationalism, racism, and terror are cut from the same cloth.

### Our history shows us the path

Winning workers to fight for communism and reject the bosses' politicians is essential to the future of the international working class. Although Benito Mussolini has been dead and gone for 77 years, it's not enough to eliminate fascist dictators. We need to destroy for all time the capitalist system that creates them.

As communists, we must learn from history, from both our advances and setbacks. As fascism sharpens, Progressive Labor Party must make it clear that workers have only two choices. Will they take the side of nationalism or internationalism? Fascism or communism? Death or life? It is the historical task of Progressive Labor Party to lead the working class to choose communist revolution and a world without racism, sexism, or imperialist war. Join us!✪

# Hitler rose, Hitler fell—Nazi scum, go to hell!

Boston antiracists standing up to nazi scum

**BOSTON, September 19**—Progressive Labor Party (PLP) marched against a New England nazi organization, chanting "Hitler rose, Hitler fell, racist Nazis go to hell" and "The Cops, the Courts, the Ku Klux Klan, All a Part of the Bosses' Plan!" We marched to the West Roxbury District Court where a pre-trial hearing was being held for nazi Chris Hood who had been arrested in July for physically attacking an LGBTQ organizer at a children's book reading in Boston.

In the Boston area and around the country, neo-nazi organizations are using attacks on LGBTQ people as the "tip of the spear" to attract new recruits. They are taking advantage of the fact that sexism and anti-gay acts marginalize non-gender-conforming people. The day before our march (Sunday, 9/18) a dozen neo-nazis protested against the Boston Children's Hospital Gender Multi-Specialty Service, a program that addresses the needs of transgender youth. PLP members were among 200 anti-nazi protestors confronting these scum. Many cops were there in force protecting the nazis. Without the cops, they would not have walked away unscathed. We mass leafletted before our demonstration to bring the lessons of fighting fascism back into the consciousness of the working class. The most important lesson is to recognize the role of communists as the most uncompromising fighters against fascism and the only force capable of destroying the capitalist system that is ever spiraling into fascist decay (see editorial on page 2). Join PLP!

### Cops, courts won't stop nazis: it's up to us!

The working class in Massachusetts is witnessing a rise in neo-nazism: "the Anti-Defamation League counted 388 reported hate, extremism, antisemitism and terror incidents in 2021. Five years earlier, it tallied only 123" (GBH, 5/18).

Other nazi attacks in recent months in the Boston area include:

- Demonstrations at Brigham & Women's Hospital against doctors who are fighting for equal treatment for Black cardiac patients. The nazis called this "white genocide."
- Protests against the Boston Holocaust Memorial.
- Hanging a banner on 9/11 on a bridge over a highway saying "Jews did 9/11."
- A pop-up march through Boston on July 4 weekend, beating up a Black man.

Small groups of nazis and white nationalists may commit dozens of racist, anti-gay attacks, even murders and bombings, but they become much more dangerous when the big capitalist ruling class throws their support behind them. Right now, these groups are aligned with and funded by the Small Fascist (see Glossary, page 6) movement but they could also be used by the Wall Street/Biden fascists as their system flounders.

In fact, the history of the rise of Hitler in 1920-1933 Germany shows this. When the German economy crashed, and the workers' movement grew, the big German capitalists, Thyssen, Krupp, Siemens and I.G. Farben, desperately began to fund and support Hitler big-time. Without their support Hitler could not have come to power.

### Big Fascists still big danger

For years, the FBI (with their racist history of crushing the Black Panther Party and killing Civil Rights leaders) has been keeping a "list" of neo-nazis and right-wing terrorists, but have done essentially nothing to crush these domestic terrorists. Boston's Big Fascist (see glossary, page 6) liberal Mayor Wu and other politicians publicly decry these groups as "repugnant bigots," but they let their cops and courts protect them allowing them to grow and spread racism and sexism and divide the working class.

The U.S. liberal world order is crumbling at home and around the world as Big Fascist U.S. finance capitalists move towards war with Russia and China. They will need unofficial armed militias to maintain control of their system when they can't rely on the police force or army to crush dissent. These groups will be used like the paramilitary forces in Latin America from the 1960's until today to carry out extra-judicial killings and disappearances, smashing protest movements and workers' strikes.

Still, the Big Fascists, who hold state power in liberal cities, pose the greatest danger for the working class. We only have to look at the example of Eric "top cop" Adams in New York City whose personal mission is to beef up the military police and carceral state, while masquerading as a hip-hop mayor bent on stopping crime and gun violence.

We need to set the standard that the multiracial working class will stand up to all fascists and force them back under their rocks. A united and multiracial working class army can smash both Small Fascist goons and the Big Fascist's gestapo state just like our communist predecessors smashed Hitler and Mussolini. Death to fascism! Power to the workers!✪

## Fight For Hadi continues:

# Multiracial fightback against kkkops

**Oak Lawn, Illinois, September 21**—Protests against the racist police attack (see CHALLENGE article, September 7 ) on 17-year-old Hadi Abuatrlah continued at the Oak Lawn Police and Fire Commission meeting tonight. About 30 protesters, including members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP), held a rally outside the police station demanding the firing and jailing of the three KKKops who beat Hadi within an inch of his life. We distributed copies of CHALLENGE and a reprint of the Party's article describing how the Middle-Eastern community in Oak Lawn has been targeted by the police for years. As we fight for Hadi and so many other victims of capitalist terror, we call on all workers to join the fight for communist revolution, where workers not capitalists will run society.

On July 27th, Hadi and friends were pulled over by kkkops because the car they were in allegedly smelled like marijuana. Those kkkops preceeded to brutally beat Hadi, after he was handcuffed. He suffered from a fractured pelvis, broken nose, and a bleeding brain. In August, over 50 multiracial workers, including PLP members protested this racist attack.

The highlight of the evening came when a multiracial and united collection of community

members stood up before the commission and denounced their silence as being complicit in this police attack. The police chief has stated that the beating of Hadi was justified, just like the Apartheid and Nazi regimes justified their genocidal tactics. A teacher from an area school told the commissioners about a racist incident when the police showed up concerning a disturbance outside her class. She said the first thing the kkkop asked her was, "how many wives does your husband have," because she was wearing a head covering or hijab.

Many protesters spoke fearlessly to the commissioners who were recording the proceedings (video and audio) surrounded by a herd of armed police. Another speaker listed an almost endless list of lawsuits brought by victims of the racist police in Oak Lawn. The commissioners' only response to the community has been their willingness to protect and support the Klan in blue. The meeting was adjourned after we promised to return next month and every month to expose the commission, and to continue to fight for justice for Hadi.

Police racism and brutality are integral parts of capitalism. This system cannot survive without racism; that's why we need a communist revolution. Join us!✪

# Haiti: revolutionary spirit sprouting

Massive protests rock Haiti

**HAITI, October 5**–The bosses' press covers up the horrible conditions that workers from Haiti face. The living conditions of the oppressed masses are hellish. Misery is reaching its peak. According to the CNSA (National Council for Food Security), more than six million workers in Haiti are food insecure—the bourgeoisie's "cleaned-up" term for starving. This figure doesn't even tell the whole story. There are those whose tables and stomachs are full to overflowing—this is after all, a capitalist system built on massive inequality. In an effort to make even higher profits, the bosses in the oil sector and their lackeys in the government, relying on the gangs that they have set loose on the population, have created a scarcity of fuel to justify the price increase. This has led to a shortage in pumps across the country and a vicious increase in the price of basic necessities. (see letters on page 6 about a recent cadre training school in Haiti)

### Communist leadership is needed

But the rest of the story is what really counts. Tens of thousands of workers and students take to the streets, angry and ready to fight back. At present, they are still being played like puppets by the so-called opposition politicians, but that will change with steadfast organizing by the Progressive Labor Party (PLP). The objective conditions are ripening for revolution—a government that cannot govern, a working class that doesn't want to live in the same old way. What is missing is a revolutionary communist party with deep ties among the masses and in mass organizations. A party that is challenging the capitalist/imperialist system and winning our class and its allies to overthrow the current reality and build an egalitarian society that fights in the interest of the majority.

We are convinced that the anger of the working class cannot be dissipated, despite all the violence that the capitalist system engenders. Feeding a family has become a painful exercise for families as inflation becomes insupportable and the exchange rate continues to climb. Crime is raging with murders, kidnappings, robberies and rapes. For more than three weeks, there has been no transport as the hospitals (where they exist at all) no longer function for lack of fuel. Telecommunications are affected as well.

Communication is almost impossible, even as radio and television stations are forced to shutter their doors or reduce their operating hours. The banks—the foundation of the capitalist system—are closed and the transfer offices can no longer function, resulting in virtually no money in circulation.

### Imperialism starves workers

Despite this untenable situation, the Core Group (the imperialists: U.S., France, Canada, European Union) and their local lackeys in the OAS as well as the IMF and the World Bank, all the managers of neoliberal financial capitalism, continue to tolerate and encourage Prime Minister Ariel Henry's policies. The IMF had already pushed Haiti into a familiar situation by forcing former Pres. Jovenel Moïse to end government subsidies of petroleum products.

**Continued on page 7**

# Mexico: from the rubble workers rise

On September 19 a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Mexico's Pacific coast. Two days later a 6.8 quake struck the same area. Earthquakes in Mexico have been devastating to the working class. To many, the destruction and death after earthquakes appears to stem directly from these natural phenomena, but the true cause is the bosses' disregard for workers' lives, allowing them to live in substandard housing. Capitalism can never keep the working class safe from so-called "natural disasters" because the bosses' drive for profits is the root of what's causing them. We can only confront this horror with revolution and the building of a worker-led communist society.

Mexico sits in a seismic zone, on five tectonic plates whose rearrangement each year causes hundreds of low intensity tremors and dozens of very strong earthquakes. And in the last 30 years, two devastating earthquakes left thousands dead in a gigantic wake of destruction. A severe earthquake called the Michoacan earthquake of 1985 led to widespread death and catastrophic damage to the infrastructure in Mexico City. The electricity was knocked out, leaving many workers without public transit or working traffic lights.

The president of Mexico, Miguel de la Madrid, and his advisers rejected international aid, while working people evacuated neighbors from fallen buildings and organized distribution of supplies themselves (Brittanica, 9/22).

The only true help and protection comes from the solidarity and unconditional support of the working class itself during and after most earthquakes, crises and disasters. The mobilization and solidarity of the international working class is immediate, spontaneous, and unconditional, making it clear that only workers can save workers, showing that our class has the capacity and potential understanding to be able to organize and lead a new communist society of equality.

It is no coincidence that destruction and death are most extreme in working class neighborhoods and worksites, which are unprotected and more vulnerable to natural phenomena. The capitalist class protects its houses and large, modern buildings with anti-earthquake systems. Capitalist inequality is the real cause of these tragedies after earthquakes and is why we need to destroy this capitalist system and build a new society based on communist social equality.

On top of already vulnerable conditions of poverty, lack of preparation and corruption allow construction that does not meet safe standards and a preventable scarcity of resources to help those affected. The politicians and their electoral parties profit from the suffering of the people, blaming each other to win votes. No more electoral circus, all power to the workers!

Working class solidarity and organization always exceed the official, capitalist response, which is slow, inefficient, lazy and manipulative. This working class solidarity scares the bosses who, instead of helping, deploy police to control neighborhood operations and to protect the properties of the capitalists. They even resort to media fabrications to divert workers from neighborhood sites to sites controlled by security forces. Most notoriously, after the 2017 earthquake, the media created the story of Frida Sofia, a fictional child reported to be alive in the rubble of a collapsed elementary school.

Despite the danger of recurring earthquakes, workers are more afraid of the insecurity and death created by ruling class criminal gangs that the bosses use to terrorize the working class. Intuitively, the masses see more danger in capitalism than in natural phenomena.✪

**Fight for Raymond:**

# Cops, courts, and klan– part of bosses' plan

**Continued from page 1**

Only through communism can we end these racist murders once and for all and win justice for workers around the world. In the meantime, we plan to continue organizing and rallying our forces in support of Raymond's family and fighting back against the system of capitalism that leads to such racist murders.

Our upcoming protests are scheduled for Saturday, October 8 and October 22, at 1pm on Grand Concourse and E. Kingsbridge Rd (near the D Train) - join us!

**End racist murder by fighting for communism!**

Under capitalism, the bosses use racist murder to terrorize the lives of Black and Latin workers and to continue the exploitation of the entire working class.

We must overthrow this capitalist system to create a society without racism, sexism, or any type of exploitation. Together, the working class can end racist murders and build a new world where no child needs to live in fear that what happened to Raymond could some day happen to them. Join PLP. ✪

Correction: *The previous article about Raymond (10/5) referred to murderer Dion Middleton as part of the NYPD. While he has been defended by the NYPD, he is actually part of the NY Department of Corrections (NYDOC). That being said, the agents or cops of both police departments and jails are the same. They are members of the bosses' racist army who criminalize and brutalize workers every day. Carrying out racist violence that targets Black and Latin workers is their job.*

## For Mahsa,

# This sexist system, shut it down!

Women workers lead massive protests in Iran

On September 16, 22 year old Mahsa Amini was arrested and beaten by the police in Tehran, Iran. Two days later she died while still in police custody. Masses of people are on the streets protesting the murder and the poor condition of the working class in Iran. The U.S. bosses are seizing on the protests to undermine the Iranian rulers. Unless the working class in Iran rejects the U.S. as well as Iranian bosses and fights for workers power and communist revolution these demonstrations will end up being mis-lead into a dead end of support for U.S. imperialism.

Mahsa was arrested for improperly wearing her hijab, a common occurrence in Iran, whose ruling class has secured its power by mobilizing millions of workers around a form of Islam based on using fundamentalism to terrorize people who oppose the ruling class. In response to Mahsa's killing, many thousands of people have taken to the streets in protest. At the forefront of the demonstrations have been young women who have expanded the protests beyond the murder of Mahsa to protest the deteriorating economic conditions of the working class in Iran.

### U.S. liberal fascists try to coopt antisexist fight-back

Thousands of brave workers and students, with women in the lead are fighting these sexist attacks on women in Iran and to have a decent life. At the same time the U.S. ruling class is once again cynically exploiting the anger of workers in Iran for their own interests. The likely U.S. participation in the demonstrations and the acceptance of U.S. support by the leaders of the opposition movement in Iran will insure that workers in Iran are left in a bad place, still under the thumb of ruthless exploiters, regardless of how the current uprising plays out.

Since the U.S. puppet and mass murderer, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was overthrown in 1979, the U.S. bosses have been funneling hundreds of millions of dollars to opposition groups in Iran (Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 7/9/2007) with the hopes of overthrowing the current Iranian ruling class and inserting a pro-U.S. group of bosses.

The U.S. is less concerned with what kind of government rules Iran than ensuring that it supports U.S. imperialism. Their funding efforts have ranged from the heirs of the former Shah to pseudo left-wing Kurdish militias. Even among the Iranian opposition many fear the U.S. is willing to install a new Shah type dictator (Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 7/9/2007). What has been consistent is the devastation to workers in Iran caught between the dueling butchers in Tehran and D.C. For example, in 1981 the U.S. encouraged and financed both sides in the deadly Iran – Iraq war which resulted in hundreds of thousands dead on both sides. Since then the U.S. has encouraged and financed several mass protest movements in Iran, most recently the 2009 demonstrations known as the Green Revolution. In 2009 the U.S. used the protests to weaken the Iranian government during negotiations of the first Iran-U.S. nuclear deal. Once the deal was signed the U.S. support for the protests evaporated as then President Obama refused to sanction the Iranian government after it started killing protesters (CNN, 10/9/2012).

### Unity with capitalists is deadly for our class

The demonstrations in Iran are an example of the bravery and power of the working class, along with the failed strategy of siding with one set of bosses or another. These battles can become either schools for communism, a way for the working class to learn how to beat the bosses and run society or the struggles can lead to a dead end and cynicism. We see this around the world over and over again. We must use every battle against the bosses to build a working class communist led movement for revolution. This power and our future as the working class will continue to lead to dead ends as long as we side with some group of capitalists. We must reject siding with any bosses. When the working-class sides with the bosses at best we get temporary reforms that are taken away once the bosses are able to. At worst we end up being killed when the bosses turn on us or we are used to fight against other workers in bosses' wars. The liberation of the working class will only happen through the fight for communist revolution.✪

# Bellamy, a backwards anti-revolutionary

In evaluating non-communist authors and their work, communists must pose one critical question: On balance, does the work advance the interests of the international working class? In celebrating *Looking Backward, 2000-1887*,the wildly popular novel by the 19th-century utopian Edward Bellamy, as "a powerful plea for…a communist world" (10/5/22), CHALLENGE seriously missed the mark.

On its surface, Looking Backward would seem to align with Progressive Labor Party's vision of communism: an egalitarian society with no money, profit, war, poverty, cops, or lawyers, with all capital controlled by the state. But as the CHALLENGE article concedes, the book has its "imperfections." There are no Black or Latin or immigrant workers in this imaginary year 2000. There is no anti-racist or anti-sexist struggle—no class struggle of any kind, in fact. A supposedly perfect society has evolved with "absolutely no violence." In essence, *Looking Backward* is anti-dialectical and anti-revolutionary. Written 17 years after the communards fought and died on the barricades in Paris, it fosters the dangerous illusion that we can make an omelet without breaking any eggs.

If Bellamy were simply a naïve idealist, it would be one thing. But a close reading of *Looking Backward* reveals a bitter anti-communist who accepted without question the casual racism and sexism of his day. The main obstacle to the great evolution, we learn, was "the red flag party," which was "paid by the great monopolies'' to "talk about burning, sacking, and blowing people up" and "head off any real reforms." Only when parties representing labor were replaced by "the national party," "the most patriotic of all possible parties," composed "equally of all classes, of rich and poor," could the United States move forward "as a family, a vital union, a common life..."

Elsewhere around the globe, the nations of Europe have joined the evolution, and a joint council regulates policy "toward the more backward races, which are gradually being educated up to civilized institutions." Meanwhile, all women are excluded from all "heavier sorts of work"; the top-down "industrial army" that runs the show is led exclusively by men. Even a seemingly positive development—the liberation of women from marriages driven by financial dependence, to make "matches of pure love"—is poisoned by Bellamy's racist eugenics: "It means that for the first time in human history the principle of sexual selection, with its tendency to preserve and transmit the better types of the race, and let the inferior types drop out, has unhindered operation."

Who was Edward Bellamy? He grew up in a family of evangelical Baptist preachers and flag-waving U.S. patriots. (His cousin and close associate, Francis Bellamy, wrote the original U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, which American schoolchildren honored with the "Bellamy salute"—a stiff-armed facsimile of the fascist salute—until 1942.) Though widely viewed as a "Christian socialist," Edward Bellamy called himself a "nationalist"—hence the hundreds of Nationalist Clubs, inspired by his book, that pushed for state ownership of industry. When he founded a magazine, he named it *The New Nation*. As Bellamy wrote in an anti-communist, anti-Semitic letter to the literary critic William Dean Howells:

> *…the word socialist is one I never could well stomach. In the first place it is a foreign word in itself, and equally foreign in all its suggestions. It…suggests the red flag, and with all manner of sexual novelties, and an abusive tone about God and religion, which in this country we at least treat with respect….No such party can or ought to succeed that is not wholly and enthusiastically American and patriotic in spirit and suggestions.*

While we've learned from Russia and China that socialism leads back to capitalism, that's not the main issue here. (The error of the two-stage theory of revolution wasn't obvious in 1887). The problem with Edward Bellamy is that he strips socialism of its class content and ties it instead to the nation. That's how socialism turns into its opposite—into national socialism, the fascist ideology implemented by Mussolini and then Hitler. As Sylvia Bowman observed in her book *Edward Bellamy Abroad:*

> *During the period in which Hitler's Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterparei was rising to power, some Germans – usually socially inclined but anti-Marxist bourgeois – thought at first that the National-Socialist German Worker's Party would be a version of the American Nationalist movement as outlined by Bellamy since its program had certain superficial similarities to it. These comparable plans included the Reichsarbeitsdienst, the compulsory labor force which everyone had to join after his education had been complete; the Volkgemeinschaft, the formation of a classless society which combined the arbeitsfront(workers) and the stirne und faust (intellectuals and investors); and the appeal for a unified, patriotic, collectivist society to solve the social problems which existed.*

Edward Bellamy had some positive anti-capitalist ideas. He influenced a broad range of advanced thinkers, from Tolstoy to Martin Luther King. But *Looking Backward* is far from a plea for "a communist world." Instead of militant class struggle and revolutionary working-class consciousness, it promotes racism, sexism, pacifism, and all-class unity. In this period of rising liberal fascism and looming world war, workers must look forward, not backward—to the fight for a communist future.✪

# LETTERS

***We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.***

## Covid-19: capitalist genocide continues

On Sunday, September 18, President Biden declared that the pandemic has ended, and the U.S. can now return to "normal." Yet, The People's CDC reports that over 98 percent of the U.S. population live in areas with high rates of transmission (pcdc.org, 9/19). The Lancet, the British medical journal, confirmed that the world's response to Covid-19 is "a massive global failure" (Washington Post, 9/18).

Is Covid-19 over? If you are one of the 400-500 people in the U.S. who die each day, or the one person in five living with long Covid, or a person living in a previously-colonized country where only seven percent are fully vaccinated, or one of millions with chronic disease or advanced age, Covid is not over.

Returning to "normal" is as appealing as Trump's "make America great again." Normal is billions without healthcare, paid sick leave, housing, a job, food, safety, racial and gender justice, energy, clean air, education, social connections, and other critical components for a good life. While all workers experience these problems, Black, Latin, and indigenous workers around the world suffer in disproportionate numbers. We are all connected. The denial of vaccines to poor people endangers their lives as well as ours as variants develop and travel across borders.

We can prevent future diseases by stopping climate change, deforestation, and dangerous farming practices. We can mitigate Covid-19 with masking, ventilation, free universal vaccination and health care, free test kits, medications like Paxlovid, and accommodations for people with disabilities.

This will take a concerted fight to prioritize health and create a better normal around the globe. And that will take a communist society organized by the working class with no profiteering.

★★★★★

## Red seniors are living libraries of antiracist history

Feeling a bit down during the long dark night period of Covid-19, capitalist climate destruction, war, racist, sexist violence and, because of a comrade's suggestion, I am writing about positive developments at my New York City senior center. Because of Covid and fear, our center lost most seniors that formed regular discussions where I got to discuss communist ideas and showed CHALLENGE to some.

I recently got the program director to provide a weekly discussion table (with masks and cookies) which produced eight seniors who discussed homeless people in the neighborhood and Mayor Adams. The second meeting included two Black seniors and the discussion was racist shootings.

One Black senior said he was a supporter of Malcolm X and his anti-white Muslim group because they were the only Black workers that were fighting back. Another Black maintenance worker said he attended many Malcolm X rallies and Martin Luther King rallies. I got to say I was a member of a transit worker mostly Black rank and file group that joined the Harlem Unemployment Center's picket lines to support the hiring of Black workers on all white construction jobs in Harlem. The Unemployment Center was across the street from where Malcolm held his rallies. Our transit group went over to hear Malcolm who on seeing me, the only white, said "take that honky around the corner and break his fxxking head." So luckily my transit buddies convinced the crowd that I wasn't a cop and I survived. I told my senior group that after Malcolm went to Mecca and talked with many white Muslims he realized that racism was a capitalist invention used to pit workers against each other to protect the bosses' profits. We had a lively discussion and the program director said later that she didn't realize that seniors had such a rich history and that they were, "living libraries."

I got a lift from the discussion and I hope the struggle continues.

★★★★★

# Haiti: Cadre school fights for communist ideas

*See article on page 4 about the current fightback in Haiti.*

★

## 'it enriched my ideas'

During the cadre school, I was able to learn many things that will not only help me grow as a person but will be useful to me as a fighter for my class, the working class. I learned about understanding people better without underestimating them—having confidence in our class. The training taught me some of the differences between communism and capitalism. I understand better how capitalism functions--through corruption, abusing people's trust and individualism. And I understand better about how communism will function—aiding each other to overcome problems, showing solidarity, and such.

I also learned some history of previous revolutions and how to evaluate why they failed, and what lessons we can learn from those failures, and what good things they accomplished (even if they didn't last as long as we would like).

I also learned about the difference between reforming a society—which means just to make some surface changes—and revolutionizing society—which means changing it from the root, turning it upside down, in the interests of our class. What was most important to me is that the cadre school enriched my thoughts and ideas about just about everything.

★

## 'found myself inside a communist world'

To be honest, what I learned from the cadre school is more words like materialism, idealism, reform and revolution. And thanks to these words, I found myself more inside a communist world. What struck me the most was the awareness and solidarity that each person in a communist world has that has become more human, compared to capitalist society. Under communism, we would abolish private property and claim not only liberty but also the right of each member of society to fulfill himself or herself by serving that society. When I try to understand these two different ways of living, I see that a communist society, where we cooperate instead of compete with one another, makes us more social and more sensitive to anyone.

I would like to thank the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) for inviting me to this cadre school and I hope to attend more and become more active in the struggle for the liberation of the working class.

★

## 'as we grow, our movement will grow too'

The PLP cadre school taught me a lot of things. I learned what a communist revolution is, how a communist revolution can happen, and how it differs from other so-called revolutions. The school taught me what the capitalist system is and how it functions by exploitation and racism. I learned to view my position in the world according to my class. And finally, it taught me to respect those who fight for the working class, to love and share equally according to need. That's why I think it's really important to have cadre schools, so we can deepen our understanding of how the society functions, and what we need to know and do to change it. As we grow in our experiences, our movement will grow too.

★

## 'I liked the communist goal of abolishing private property'

The cadre school was a very special experience for me. I learned a lot about historical materialism, communism and revolution. During the debates, I learned how to understand the world from a materialist point of view, rather than the idealism that we learn in schools and in church. I especially liked our discussions about the communist goal of abolishing private property and replacing it with collective property, so that the collective—the vast majority—takes over from the individual and makes decisions based on the needs and interests of the majority. I've seen in my life how private property gives all rights and control to a few to run roughshod over the majority, and the vast majority—who work for and create the wealth of the owners of private property—have little or nothing to feed, clothe, shelter and educate themselves and their families. That kind of system has got to go!

★★★★★

## GLOSSARY

### COMMUNIST TERMS

**Fascism**

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

**Big Fascists**

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

**Small Fascists**

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

# Imperialism poisons millions with radiation

The nuclear age began with the atomic bomb developed by the U.S. to "win" the war with Japan. The real reason the U.S. dropped the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was to scare the USSR and establish the U.S. as top dog imperialist. There were over two thousand experimental atomic bomb tests by the U.S and other countries competing in the nuclear arms race. The atmospheric fallout polluted the entire world with plutonium and other radioactive chemicals.

There are 600 USEPA Superfund sites on former or current U.S. military sites and another 734 superfund sites that are non-military. A superfund site is considered so polluted that it is dangerous to human health and must be cleaned up. The military accepts the illnesses and deaths caused by the environmental pollution at their superfund sites as necessary for the national defense. The U.S. military enforces U.S. imperialism and it is not subject to any scrutiny either politically or legally. It cannot be sued due to "sovereign" immunity.

Most of these superfund sites have not been cleaned up because it is too costly (for the capitalists). The lives lost or ruined by the pollution are falsely written off as unavoidable. The truth is that these waste sites exist because the military is focused on weapons and destruction. They don't follow any anti-pollution regulations, are exempt from lawsuits and can hide behind national security.

Many of these sites are contaminated with radioactive waste from atomic bomb testing, plutonium production and ongoing use of nuclear-powered naval vessels. The damage done is never compensated and health care costs are left up to the victims. And government agencies constantly lie about environmental pollution and health effects

These horrors are illustrated by the Hanford Plutonium factory in southeastern Washington state. It is an abandoned factory where plutonium for atomic bombs were made. The site is huge (½ the size of Rhode Island). The location was confiscated by the U.S. government in 1942, pushing out five indigenous tribes and hundreds of farmers to put 11,000 workers in place to make plutonium.

Plutonium is the most-deadly of all radioactive substances. It has a 24,000-year half-life in the environment. The workers at Hanford (and the children and spouses) have been dying and suffering from uncontrolled exposure to the radiation. The U.S. government refuses to compensate the victims and their health care has driven many into bankruptcy.

Hanford is just one site of horror. The Santa Susana, California, atomic reactor experimental facility operated for the Department of Energy by private companies has caused an epidemic of child leukemia and brain cancer in nearby residents.

### Imperialism poisons workers

Hunter's Point Naval shipyard in San Francisco has poisoned the neighbors who suffer from high rates of cancer and birth defects, and shortened life expectancy. Radiation was spread in the community when radioactive ships used in atomic bomb testing in the west Pacific were decontaminated in the 1940's and 1950's. Originally, poisoned workers and residents were all Black, but subsequently the community has become ethnically diverse. All this is business as usual for the U.S. military.

Recently the U.S. Congress admitted that Camp Lejeune in North Carolina had poisoned thousands of marines and their families because of pollution in their water supply. The contamination had been known for decades but the U.S. government refused to clean it up, or compensate, and provide medical care for the cancer and other diseases caused by the pollution.

Many communities have fought back against environmental pollution and environmental racism. If this has raised its ugly head in your community, fight back against the racist polluters!

There have been millions of victims of military pollution. These victims are the inevitable casualties of endless war to protect and extend the imperial goals of U.S. capitalism. The answer to these injustices is communism. The imperialist U.S. government cares no more about its citizens' health and survival than they do about the rest of the world's working class. We are all expendable. The sickness and death caused by the capitalists' perpetual need for more profits and power must be eradicated by communist revolution.✪

## Haiti: revolutionary spirit ripens

Continued from page 4

Workers and students, fed up with their daily conditions, have blocked the streets in various neighborhoods, attacked politicians, and broken into and liberated goods from some businesses that have exploited them.

### Haitian workers need communist revolution

While these actions are called by various elements in the "opportunist opposition," in a good number of cases, particularly in the provincial areas, it is groups of workers and students, trade unions or social organizations that organize them. This is the case in a city where the PLP is very active. Party members provide militant leadership and contribute to the organization of all mobilizations.

The only solution to free our class from this misery is to build the PLP as a large and strong party, giving leadership to and taking leadership from the masses. Our task today is to politicize our class, workers and students, and engage them in the factories and rural areas, on campus and in the classroom. We must take the uprising in the streets back to the job and the campus, raise class awareness to understand the roots of our misery —capitalism/imperialism— and then take this increased awareness back into the streets, the job and the campus, bringing the class struggle to a higher level.

This is how we will recruit to the PLP and build the revolutionary response of our class throughout the world—the communist revolution for an egalitarian society, without money, without racism/sexism and without imperialist wars. We launched the challenge with our cadre school this past summer (see letters on page 6). We will continue this battle until victory is ours! We will build another world. Our class and our Party is the future.✪

# RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

### Healthcare profits keep rolling along as patients die

New York Times, 9/24–Norman Otey was rushed by ambulance to Richmond Community Hospital. The 63-year-old was doubled over in pain and babbling incoherently. Blood tests suggested septic shock, a grave emergency that required the resources and expertise of an intensive care unit… But Richmond Community, a struggling hospital in a predominantly Black neighborhood, had closed its I.C.U. in 2017…It took several hours for Mr. Otey to be transported to another hospital, according to his sister, Linda Jones-Smith. He deteriorated on the way there, and later died of sepsis.

Ringed by public housing projects, Richmond Community consists of little more than a strapped emergency room and a psychiatric ward. Yet the hollowed-out hospital — owned by Bon Secours Mercy Health, one of the largest nonprofit health care chains in the country — has the highest profit margins of any hospital in Virginia.

The secret to its success lies with a federal program that allows clinics in impoverished neighborhoods to buy prescription drugs at steep discounts, charge insurers full price and pocket the difference. More than half of all hospitals in the United States are set up as nonprofits, a designation that allows them to make money but avoid paying taxes…Bon Secours …made nearly $1 billion in profit last year at its 50 hospitals in the United States and Ireland and was sitting on more than $9 billion in cash reserves.

### Plans for escalating war on the European front

The Economist, 9/29–Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, has repeatedly warned that he could resort to nuclear weapons.

On September 21 he said he would use "all weapons systems available" to defend the "territorial integrity" of Russia. In response Jake Sullivan, the U.S. national security adviser, sternly warned Russia of "catastrophic consequences" if it used nuclear weapons.One option would be to pile more economic pressure on Russia, perhaps through secondary sanctions on those buying its oil and gas, with the hope of turning Mr Putin into even more of an international pariah. Another option would be for the West to help Ukraine fight in a nuclear battlefield, by providing advice, protective gear and decontamination equipment. It could also supply more advanced arms. At the other end of the scale, America, Britain or France could respond with a limited nuclear strike of their own.

The middle way…is the likeliest…deploying nato troops to Ukraine, or carrying out direct strikes on Russian targets. The U.S. could…destroy the ports, air bases, or mobile missile launchers used in any Russian nuclear attack.

Ben Hodges, a retired general who once commanded American. ground forces in Europe, suggests sinking Russia's Black Sea fleet, or destroying its bases in Crimea.

### Farmers in Pakistan crushed by flooding and by capitalism

New York Times, 10/1–The young woman waded into the waist-deep flood water that covered her farmland, scouring shriveled stalks of cotton for the few surviving white blooms. But the farmworker — Barmeena, just 14 — had no choice. "It was our only source of livelihood…She is one of the millions of farmworkers whose fields were submerged by the record-shattering floods that have swept across Pakistan. In the hardest-hit regions, where the floods drowned entire villages, the authorities have warned that the floodwater may not fully recede for months.Still, wherever the water has receded even a bit, farm laborers are scrambling to salvage whatever they can from the battered remains of their cotton and rice harvests. It is desperate work. Many already owe hundreds or thousands of dollars to the landlords whose fields they cultivate each year, as part of a system that has long governed much of rural Pakistan.

But now, their summer harvests are in ruins. Unless the water recedes, they will not be able to plant the wheat they harvest each spring. Even if they can, the land is certain to produce less after being damaged by the floodwaters, from a cataclysmic combination of heavy glacier melt and record monsoon rains, which scientists say were both intensified by climate change.

"Our life goes like that — sinking into debt, not earning the money to pay it back, and then we do it again," said Mairaj Meghwar, 40, a farmer who lives in the village of Lal Muhammad in Sindh Province, the region that sustained the most flood damage... "We are slaves, that is clear," he said.

## 1978 Oxnard

# BEAT BACK THE KLAN

OXNARD,CA, July 1978: The Committee Against Racism and PLP, outraged by showing of "Birth of a Nation," attacks the Klan.

*From the 1970s to the current day, Progressive Labor Party has organized hundreds of attacks on the Ku Klux Klan and neo-nazis wherever they spread their racist garbage. Rejecting the pacifist mythology that these gutter racists would fade away if ignored, we have attacked them head-on—and confronted the capitalists' cops who protect them. We have mounted these antiracist, multiracial actions in New York City, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Detroit and St. Louis. We've done the same in smaller communities like Tupelo, Mississippi; Scotland, Connecticut; Jamesburg and Morristown, New Jersey; and scores of cities and towns in California. We invaded the Nazis' headquarters in Chicago. We beat a white supremacist leader in a Boston television interview. These militant anti-KKK/Nazi actions have involved an estimated 100,000 or more workers and youth.*

*The following is from an undergraduate college student who contacted the Progressive Labor Party for information about PLP and a PLP-led mass organization Committee Against Racism fighting the Ku Klux Klan in Oxnard, CA in 1978. He went on to write his dissertation, The Battle of Oxnard: How Oxnard's Working Class Defeated the Klan, on this event. It has been lightly edited for subheadings and clarity.*

In my paper The Battle of Oxnard, I wrote of how the Klan tried to organize in Oxnard, and how they were kicked out of the city. With a bold, militant, and well-organized protest led by the Progressive Labor Party, working-class Oxnarders and PLP organizers completely decimated any chance that the Klan could organize in Oxnard ever again.

The Klan was in a renaissance nationwide since the deindustrialization and other economic issues of the "stagflation" era was creating fertile ground for working class whites to be pitted against fellow workers. One of these new Klansmen was Tom Metzger, a John Birch Society chapter leader and native of the San Diego area who used the White Power network to lead a California organization of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (KKKK). Metzger began his efforts at Camp Pendleton in 1976. In California, Klansmen like Tom Metzger and David Duke tried to pit white workers against immigrant workers, forming a mostly performative (though it still caused fear for some people trying to cross) border patrol.

### PLP organizes to smash Klan

On July 30, 1978, at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center (OPAC), the Klan was allowed, after facing performative protest at the city hall , to host a showing of *The Birth of a Nation*. Just days before the event, the PLP was hosting a convention for the Committee Against Racism organization in Los Angeles. When PLP and CAR members learned of the Klan's event, scheduled conventional plans were scrapped and everyone worked on a plan to shut down the event. The PLP and CAR were met receptively, as Oxnard's working class had a rebellious working-class culture from a generation of strikes, riots, the Chicano movement, and labor struggle that often led to fighting Sheriff's deputies. PLP and CAR members canvassed the neighborhood near the OPAC to rally workers. PLP and CAR members planned along military-like lines, with organizers waiting, divided into units waiting in the nearby park for the Klan's truck to show up. The Klan planned this and tried to rush into the OPAC's courtyard, where they were rushed by organizers with wooden sticks, newspaper-wrapped pipes and other weapons. They also fought cops stationed as guards. After janitors helped PLP members retreat from the courtyard, the main show began, with hundreds of protestors showing up, and a smaller NAACP-led march showing up as well.

### Klan gets a beatdown at the hands of communists

PLP and CAR fighters, along with numerous community members, shattered windows with wood, bricks, and full soda cans, all while an effigy of a hanged Klansman was burned. The crowd of thousands fought police summoned from across the County to stop the demonstration, throwing bricks, sticks, pipes, and soda cans, with many running to garages to get baseball bats. At this point, the police negotiated with the Klan, who were told they could no longer show the movie, though Metzger claimed they "sat back" and watched the movie. The police then bull-rushed the crowd, with around a dozen organizers and protestors arrested, though many more were taken into the homes of sympathetic neighbors who hid them in garages and closets from the police, or even pretended they were at a high-school reunion in a backyard to avoid arrest. The Klansmen sped away from the OPAC, and with that the Klan has never tried to organize in Oxnard again, owing to the militancy of Oxnard's community, led by the PLP into battle.

### KKKops and Kourts go after antiracists

Many protestors and organizers faced years of jail time and lengthy trials, with some serving time. One PLP member, Stephen P. Bisson, faced the wrath of the L.A. County D.A. who introduced many pieces of evidence based on other marches, all on an anti-communist crusade explicitly designed to take down the PLP "fanatics." In Oxnard, the PLP and CAR had a prime moment that wasn't used to its potential. CAR had several recruits and started study groups with farm workers. CAR members were enthusiastically greeted by people on the streets because of how successful the militant protest was.

Unfortunately, this was not sustained long-term. This was mainly because of needing to travel between LA and Oxnard, but also overstepping. Many of the criticisms CHALLENGE lobbed against Cesar Chavez were correct but misplaced. It's correct that Cesar Chavez's stance on undocumented workers is chauvinistic and divisive, but to immediately lob criticisms at UFW locals when they had just arrived in Oxnard and had not yet led people in strikes was clearly overstepping the place as a new fraction in the union. Winning the trust of workers takes patience.

More positively though, the Oxnard protest emboldened CAR and PLP members to launch into anti-Klan and anti-Nazi protests across the state from 1978 and well into the 1980s with several successes.

One success is that because of these events, Oxnarders don't fear the Klan in their streets. ✪

CHALLENGE response: This struggle at Oxnard is a testament of the power of the working class and our need for multiracial unity. A few notes:

Cesar Chavez was a racist capitalist agent, and the PLP correctly attacked him for it.

Next, CAR grew into the International Committee Against Racism (InCAR) and many workers saw—from Oxnard, CA to Tupelo, MS to Boston, MA— InCAR as the main mass organization that can lead workers in the fight against racism and the resurgence of fascist groups like the Klan. InCAR was eventually disbanded when PLP's strategy changed from creating organizations to joining mass organizations (unions, community groups, associations) and recruiting workers to directly fight for communist revolution. This grew out of the assertion that we have confidence in workers to understand and adopt the most advanced ideas as their own.

Militant antiracism is one of our pillars, and Oxnard was one example of that commitment. For more, go to www.plp.org to read, "PLP History: Anti-Racism At Forefront Of Communist Fightback."✪

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons. The next deadline is the **Friday evening of October 14.** Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to:

www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See box on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.


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